

Message Text

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ORIGIN OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 DLOS-09 EB-07 COME-00
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

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USEEC, COPENHAGEN FOR REGIONAL FISHATT.

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TA : EFIS, ICNAF

SUBJECT: FIRST REPORT: ICNAF 27TH ANNUAL MEETING,
OTTAWA FOR USDEL ICNAF

1. FIRST WEEK'S SESSIONS OF ICNAF ANNUAL MEETING WERE HELD
IN A RESTRAINED ATMOSPHERE BEFITTING A FUNERAL SERVICE.
WHILE DISCUSSIONS ON RENEGOTIATION OF A SUCCESSOR ORGANIZA-

TION ARE NOT SCHEDULED UNTIL JUNE 6-8, THE FUTURE WAS THE OBVIOUS PREOCCUPATION OF ALL THE DELEGATES AND THE SUBJECT WAS RAISED, ALTHOUGH NOT DISCUSSED IN DEPTH, AT THE FIRST DAY'S MEETING.

2. AFTER TWO DAYS OF SHORT AND DESULTORY SESSIONS GENERALLY LACKING IN SUBSTANCE, THE CANADIAN DELEGATION TOOK OVER FOR TWO DAYS OF WHAT THEY TERM "MULTILATERAL" DISCUSSIONS, AT WHICH THE U.S. WAS QUIETLY ASKED NOT TO BE PRESENT. DURING THESE TALKS, CANADIANS INTENDED TO WORK OUT ALLOCATIONS TO MEMBER COUNTRIES WITHIN THEIR FISHERY ZONE. BY THIS TECHNIQUE, CANADA WILL BE ABLE TO DISTRIBUTE HER SURPLUS FISH STOCKS IN A SEMIPUBLIC FORUM, MAINTAINING THE APPEARANCE OF A MULTILATERAL FORMAT WHILE RUNNING NO RISK OF ALLOCATING STOCKS THAT MIGHT INTEREST CANADIAN FISHERMEN. THE COMING WEEK SHOULD SHOW HOW CLOSE THE ALLOCATIONS WILL BE TO PREVIOUS ICNAF LEVELS, AND WHETHER OR NOT CANADA

INTENDS TO MAKE THE MEMBERS REASONABLY HAPPY VIS-A-VIS CANADA AND EACH OTHER. SINCE THE FISH STOCKS IN CANADA'S ZONE ARE BY FAR THE MOST IMPORTANT REMAINING IN THE ICNAF AREA, THE RESULTS OF THESE "MULTILATERAL" TALKS HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO AFFECT THE TRADITIONALLY CORDIAL AND COOPERATIVE ATMOSPHERE PREVAILING AMONG THE ICNAF MEMBERS.

3. NEXT WEEK'S SESSION WILL DETERMINE THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE U.S. CAN CONTINUE TO PARTICIPATE IN ICNAF SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION. VANCE

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